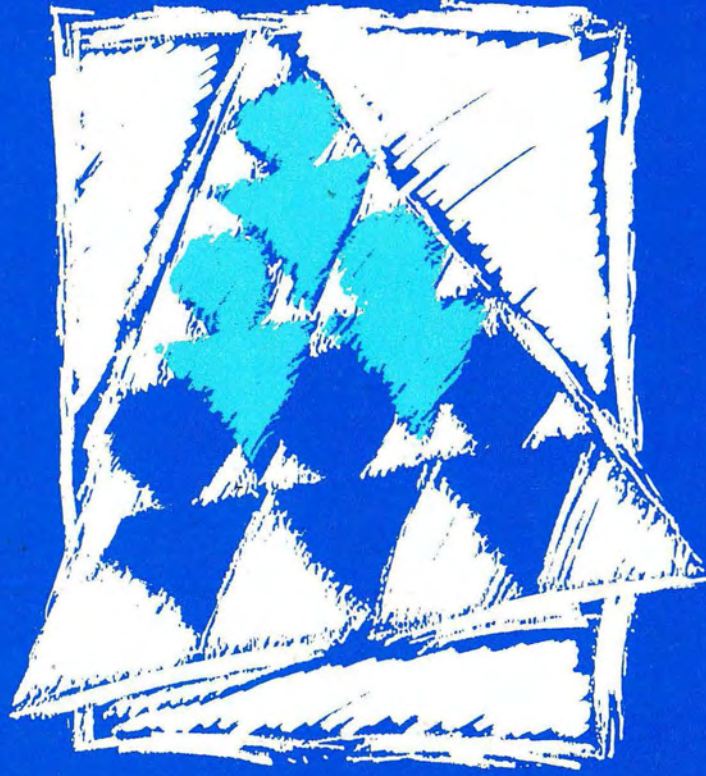


ANNUAL REPORT 1990



**CENTRECARE
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
SERVICE**



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Centrecare Marriage and Family Service had its beginnings 30 years ago when the Catholic Marriage Guidance Council began under the direction of Father Joe Russell. The agency has come a long way since. Both in the range and level of care it provides to the community and in its standing and acceptance by the community.

The past year has seen Centrecare Marriage and Family Service move to larger, more modern premises; considerable achievement in the introduction of new and upgraded services and the introduction of new information to the public about the agency.

The board extends its commendation to the agency's director Tony Pietropiccolo who was appointed in 1989, as well as to the individual service co-ordinators and all staff for an outstanding commitment. As a result of their commitment, Centrecare Marriage and Family Service is able to offer valuable and highly professional services to any member of our community regardless of race, religion, family or financial resources.

Services provided by Centrecare Marriage and Family Service have included professional counselling in a wide range of areas; financial management counselling; supported accommodation; support and assistance to expectant mothers; home-

visiting; counselling programs to enhance the personal, domestic, vocational and social skills of clients; preventative education programs; and information on, and practical assistance with, other services available in the community.

While many programs have benefited individuals, couples and families, much of the work carried out by the agency is in group programs, and 1990 included a highly successful series of group workshops on a variety of life skills.

In the period under review, more than 4,500 counselling sessions were conducted by staff of the agency across its range of services.

The mission of Centrecare Marriage and

Family Service, inspired by Christian principles and values, is to provide individuals, couples, families, parents and children with access to counselling and practical support programs which lead to enhancing their personal, social and spiritual well-being.

The ultimate aim of Centrecare Marriage and Family Service is to assist in the preservation of the unit of the family and to encourage a sense of dignity among those in our community who are less fortunate than others.



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1 Chairman of Board of Management
Kevin Wringe.

2 Entrance to Centrecare
Marriage & Family
Service at 456 Hay
Street, Perth.

None of these aims are possible without funding essential to the very high level of skill required to fulfil the agency's mission. The budget for the financial year under review was \$1.125 million. The board expresses its sincere appreciation to the Catholic Church for its generous contribution.

The State Government of Western Australia, through the Department for Community Services and The Office Of The Family, has also contributed significant funds, as has the Federal Government through The Attorney General's Department.

Additional funds for the operation of the services have come from contributions made by Catholic Charities and from the direct donations of clients and appreciative community members.

Significant in this past year was the official opening and blessing on April 21, 1990, of the agency's new building, ideally located at 456 Hay Street Perth. The building was bought and



completely refurbished by the Catholic Church under the direction of Archbishop Foley and the Executive Director of the Catholic Social Welfare Commission, Mr Tony McAlinden.

My sincere appreciation is extended to fellow board members for providing leadership, direction and support in fulfilling the church's mission.

Kevin Wringe
CHAIRPERSON
Board of Management

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Major changes occurred for Centrecare Marriage and Family Service in the 1989-90 financial year.

The agency faced the challenges of adjusting to having a director, moving to new premises and integrating new programs and associated staff.

The new premises at 456 Hay Street Perth are very comfortable and offer an environment that is conducive to the delivery of professional services to the agency's clients. The efforts of the Board of Management, chaired by Kevin Wringe, in working towards the establishment of an improved working environment for Centrecare's staff needs are highly appreciated. It is also recognised that the premises would not be what they are without the strong support of Archbishop Foley, the Catholic Social Welfare Commission, and the hard work of Mrs Fay Colum.

The integration of Pregnancy Help with Centrecare Marriage and Family Service was an event of major significance. Pregnancy Help staff faced changes in location, the formulation of new working relationships and adjustments to new administrative procedures. There was an equal adjustment necessary on behalf of Centrecare staff. While it is recognised that relocation presents many frustrations, all staff are to be commended for their patience and flexibility during a difficult period.

During the year, a new logo was developed for Centrecare Marriage and Family Service. The logo has been used on agency stationery since January, 1990. At the same time, a poster promoting the agency's services was produced and distributed widely in the community in an effort to raise visibility and awareness.

In the past twelve months, a new service aimed at helping prevent homelessness among Western Australia's young people was developed in conjunction with the YMCA and Youth Legal Service. The CY Youth Mediation Service is primarily intended to assist parents and adolescents come to agreement over disputes which appear to have no solution.

A fortnightly visit by a marriage counsellor to Kalgoorlie was introduced early in 1990. It is hoped that a more permanent, locally based service can be established in the future.

Despite the above changes and disruptions to well established patterns of functioning, the staff of Centrecare continued to offer an efficient and professional service to clients. All staff are to be congratulated for their pursuit of excellence of service and their commitment to professional development.

Father Steve Truscott was appointed as the agency's chaplain in August 1989. Father Steve's fortnightly mass and special liturgies have been both a source of comfort and inspiration. His availability to staff and clients is highly valued.

The work of Centrecare could not be achieved without the financial support of the Catholic Church, and State and Federal Government departments. Their ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Demand for the services of Centrecare Marriage and Family Service continues to be at a high level. The agency will make every effort to meet this demand within the limits of its resources. It is intended to maintain a sensitivity to changing community needs and to develop appropriate responses to them.

COUNSELLING PROGRAMS

The past year has been busy for Centrecare Marriage and Family Service Counselling Programs. Staff have continued to be involved in agency and community based committees, as well as professional development programs and workshops.

During the year, the agency contributed to several tertiary courses with counselling staff supervising students on practicums. Seven students from such courses were involved.

All counselling programs experienced increases in demand resulting in more than 3,100 clients assisted during 1989-90. The number of staff remained static at 20, comprising full time, part time and voluntary counsellors.

Marriage counselling services were offered at the Perth office, and introduced at Communicare and Kalgoorlie for trial periods. A total of 387 clients accounted for 2,175 counselling sessions during the year. The continuing importance of marriage counselling services saw three counsellors preparing for accreditation and two successfully accredited.



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Both family and personal counselling services, experienced increased demand with 279 clients resulting in 1,012 counselling sessions.

Parent-Teen Link, a service introduced in February 1989, has proven to be successful with 287 referrals received from Department for Community Services, Crisis Care and the Parent Help Centre.

A total of 38 clients attended post adoption counselling sessions held at Centrecare Marriage and Family Service Perth offices, during the period. Support groups and education programs were conducted with other organisations, including Adoption Research and Counselling Service and Australia for Children.

Family Link is a counselling service at Girrawheen for families in the northern suburbs. Family Link's services included counselling in clients' homes, camps and family picnics. During the year, the service conducted a total of 545 counselling sessions involving 317 families.

Clients of all counselling services were referred to Centrecare Marriage and Family Service from a wide range of sources, including family and friends, health and welfare professionals, parish priests and church workers, as well as other service agencies and schools. Also a notable increase in clients were referred from other program staff within Centrecare.

Despite the growing indications that we were dealing with people with increasingly serious and entrenched difficulties, 1989-90 was seen as a year of positive achievements and pleasing progress. Our challenge in the coming year will be the continuing expansion of services in response to growing community demands while, at the same time, reducing any unfavourably long waiting period for counselling services.



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1 Margaret van Keppel, Co-ordinator Counselling Programs.

2 Centrecare Marriage & Family Service Counsellors and Staff

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Throughout the year 1989-90, Centrecare Marriage and Family Service Support Programs experienced a growing demand for its variety of services. A significant acquisition of three houses during the year under the Supported

Accommodation Assistance Programs, now provides a total of thirteen houses available for family support.

The program offers medium to long term supported accommodation and external support to families through the services of the team's accommodation workers. Client families are often victims of having lived in unsuitable and insecure environments for long periods. By offering more than emergency and crisis accommodation, the program has been able to work with families toward developing homemaking and lifestyle goals.

A marginal increase in staff in the service and new staff members provides us with a total of 12 people. Volunteer workers are crucial in providing essential services in family support and consulting in financial management. A team approach has been adopted by the service to provide field staff with the necessary support for ongoing work.

The work of Sister Loreto Gray has been of great significance, offering practical and emotional support for families suffering hardship through relationship breakdowns, ill health and financial difficulties. Sister Loreto also maintains

an advocacy role in areas of Social Security, Homeswest, education and court proceedings.

Support for young pregnant women has proven to be a successful program and complements the family support service. The service has been able to accommodate up to seven young mothers-to-be, or mothers and their babies, in two supported houses.

Maintenance for all houses and assistance for families in the processes of moving in and out is offered by the service. However, the program philosophy is to provide "assistance in doing" rather than "doing for" and families are guided in caring for the

grounds and properties themselves.

The future challenge of Centrecare Marriage and Family Service Support Programs, is to ensure strategies for achieving our goals are effective, and that our approach will avoid becoming locked into a "crisis cum band aid" response to family welfare issues. The support programs will focus on team building for staff through meaningful training programs.



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1 Jan Oliver, Co-ordinator Support Programs.

2 Elizabeth House — Centrecare Marriage & Family Service Supported Accommodation.

PREGNANCY HELP

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Pregnancy Help has had a year of significant changes, beginning with the appointment of a new co-ordinator, the second in the twelve year history of the agency.

The next major change came when Pregnancy Help joined the other services of Centrecare Marriage and Family Service in the new premises at 456 Hay Street. Relocation brought with it changes to a slightly more formal method of working than previously.

In April 1990, a part time psychologist was appointed to Pregnancy Help to broaden the base of the agency. The appointment has resulted in a dramatic increase in referrals for pregnancy and abortion counselling from King Edward Memorial Hospital, Department for Community Services and other counselling agencies.

The service also introduced group workshops for pregnant women who want to improve their life and parenting skills. An ongoing schools program includes talks to high school students on subjects of abortion, relationships and sexuality.

Eighteen volunteer counsellors continue to provide an after-hours telephone service and office support for full time staff. Additionally,

a band of enthusiastic helpers maintain the clothing and equipment stores, with impeccable baby clothes available for clients.

During the year 1989-90, the agency had contact with a total of 1,810 clients. Of these 1,046 were known to be unmarried and 86 under the age of 16 years. Post abortion counselling was provided to 54 clients; baby clothes and furniture were provided to 531 clients, and staff made a total of 158 home visits and 353 hospital visits.



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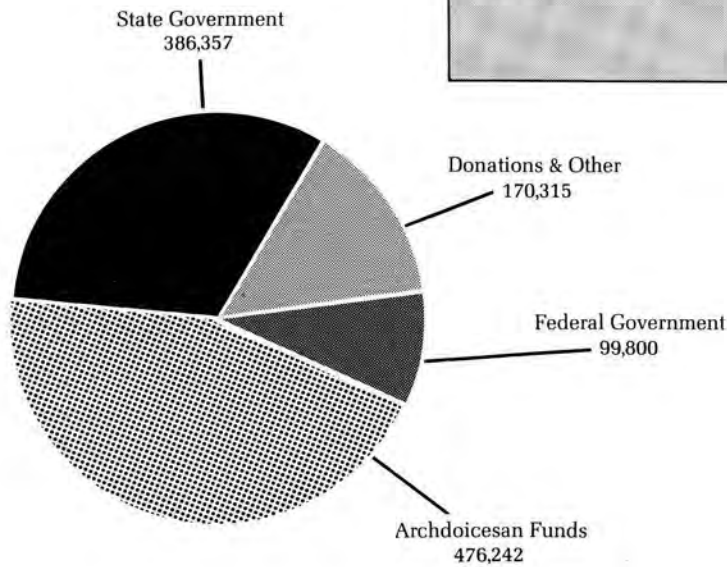
1 Maureen Helen,
Co-ordinator
Pregnancy Help.

2 Baby Clothes —
Practical Assistance
for New Mothers.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

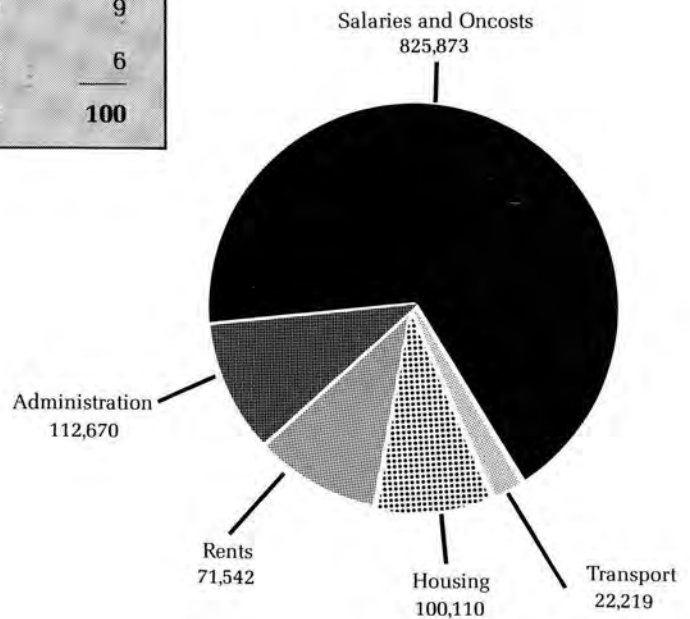
INCOME 1989/90

		%
Archdoicesan Funds	476,242	42
State Government	386,357	34
Federal Government	99,800	9
Donations & Other	170,315	15
	1,132,714	100



EXPENDITURE 1989/90

		%
Salaries and Oncosts	825,873	73
Administration	112,670	10
Transport	22,219	2
Housing	100,110	9
Rents	71,542	6
	1,132,714	100





**CENTRECARE
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
SERVICE**

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